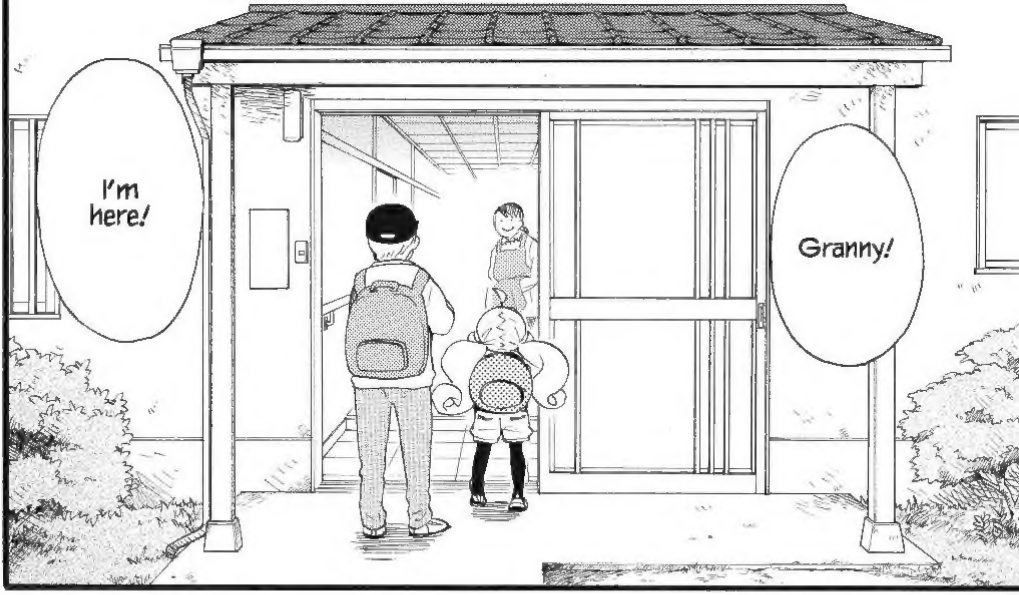
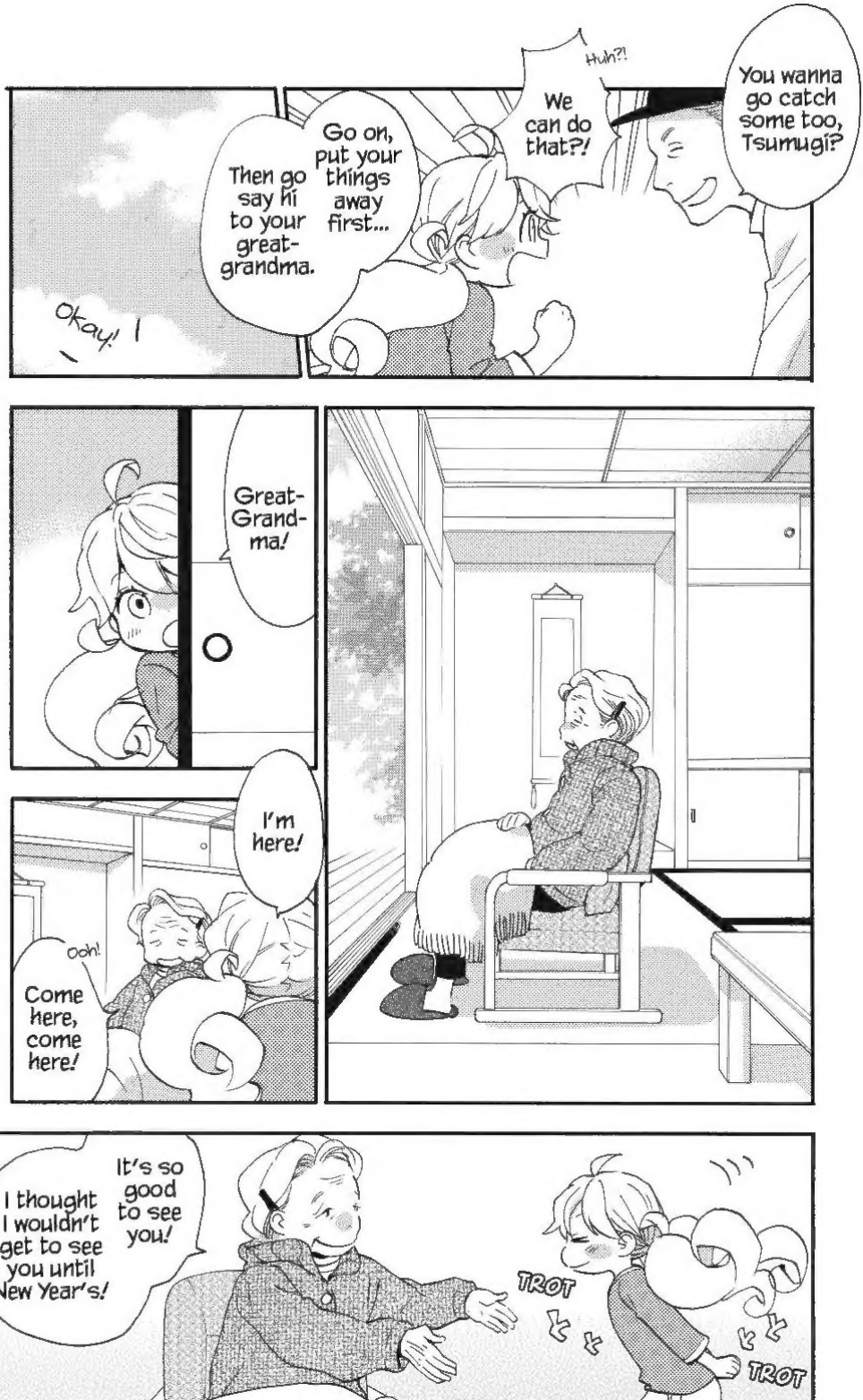
Chapter 30: Welcome Home and Chicken Cream Stew

By: Gido Amagakure

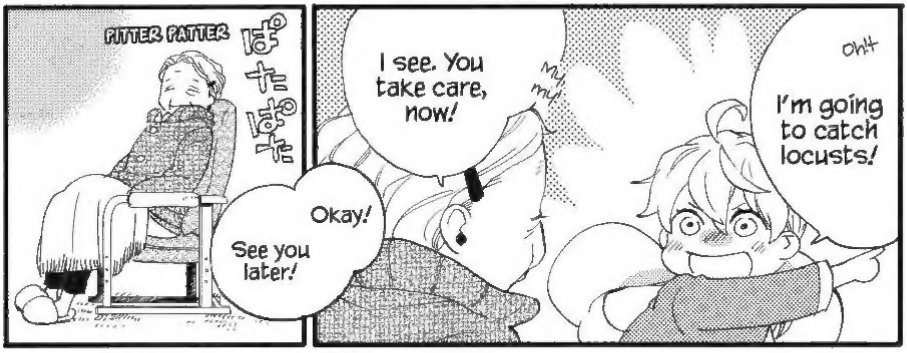

I'm here!
Granny!

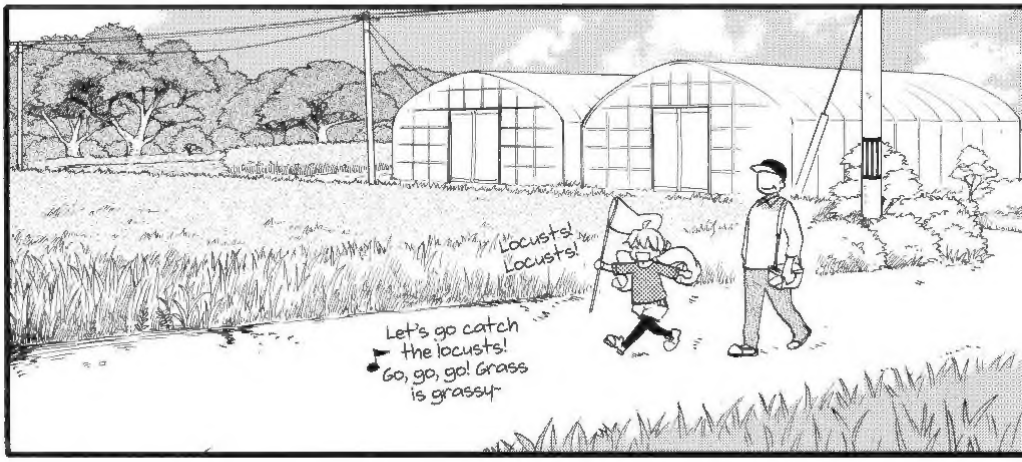
Come in! Come in!
Thanks for having me!
Hi there, Tsumugi!

BLARGH
What's this—
WAH!
Lo-custs!
Huh?

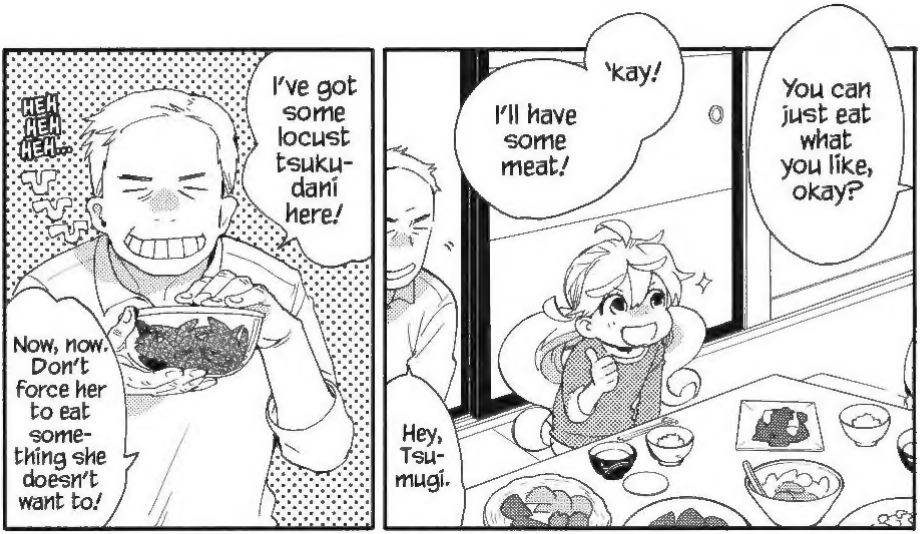

You wanna go catch some too, Tsumugi?
Huh?!
We can do that?!
Go on, put your things away first...
Then go say hi to your great-grandma.
Okay!
Great-Grandma!
I'm here!
Ooh!
Come here, come here!
I thought I wouldn't get to see you until New Year's!
It's so good to see you!
TROT
TROT

Yeah?
Hmm?
Enjoying the sunshine.
さわさわ
STROKE STROKE
Whatcha doin'?
Hee hee!
Your cheeks are so smooth!
Heh heh.

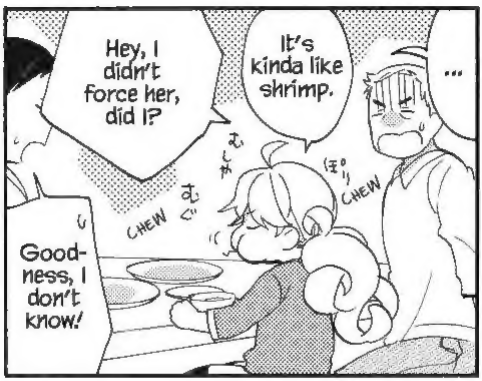

PITTER PATTER
てとてとてと
Okay! See you later!
I see. You take care, now!
Mu mu!
Oh!
I'm going to catch locusts!


Locusts! Locusts!
Let's go catch the locusts! Go, go, go! Grass is grassy-

I don't see any...
It's actually a lot easier to catch them really early in the morning.
You wanna come back tomorrow?
Aah!
I found one!
Ooh!
How do I do this?!
Hang on a sec!
SHRIEK! SHRIEK!
TA-DA!
Dinnertime!


I've got some locust tsukudani here!
HEH HEH HEH...
Now, now. Don't force her to eat something she doesn't want to!
Hey, Tsumugi.
I'll have some meat!
'kay!
You can just eat what you like, okay?

Tsukudani: Preserved with a soy sauce and mirin glaze.



おふろで クレヨン
(Bath Crayons)
You're a really great artist, Tsumugi!
Look! Look! A fishie!
HM!
TEE HEE HEE...
Okay!
Don't stay in the hot bath too long or you'll get dizzy!
Hey, now.

Daddy...
...
...
'kay.
Ready for breakfast?
Oh, Tsumugi. You're up?

Good morning!
Morning, Great-Grannie.
...
ぷっ oof.
Wow, yeah! It's warm!
What were you doing?
Enjoying the sunshine.
Yeah...?
You're smooth too, Great-Grannie!
Oh, am I?
???
Heh heh heh.
So smooth!

Hold on a second.
Over here...
OOF
WARM ぽか
WARM ぽか
YAWN...
ふぁ...
...
Here.
It's little Kou.
It's your daddy, Tsumugi.

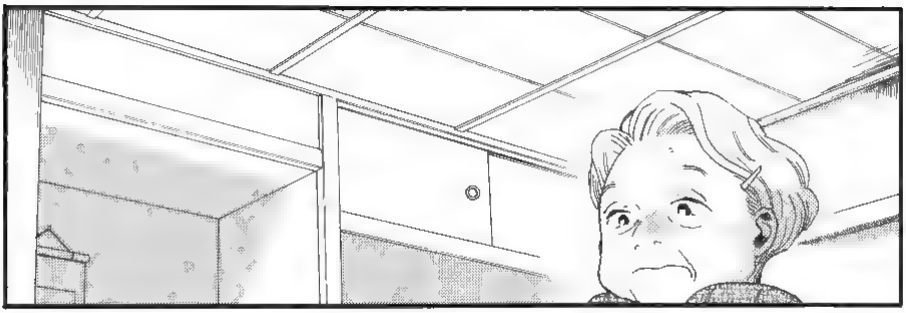
Ooh!
Here's when he was a student.
Kouhei's First Day at Middle School—Family Picture
Here he is as a baby.
Aha ha ha ha!
うおー
WHOA!
He's a little kid!
AHA HA HA HA.
He must be about your age.
Right?

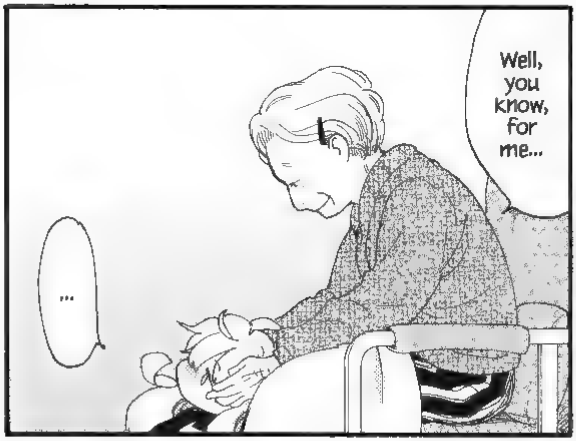
Is this Grannie?
Well... That Is ME!
HMM
Wow...
HMM

I used to be young and cute too, you know?
AH HA HA!
You're so young!
Wow...
What's it like getting old?

Hm...
What's it like...
What's it like...
Sometimes...
...you talk with family and friends.
And when you get sleepy, you sleep.
Every day...
...you relax in the sun.
You don't have to eat much, so you just eat what you can.
And you think about the past a lot.

You need a lot of help from other people.
In that sense, it's just like being a baby.
Do you want to be an old lady, Tsumugi?
Daddy said....
...that when I get old, I'll get to see Mommy.
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
SNUGGLE
SNUGGLE




Well, you know, for me...
...

Hmm...

But after that, you were born.

When your great-grand-pa died...
...I was so sad every day.

That makes me very happy.
And you know how you come and talk to me?
It's a good thing to live a long time.
When I think that I'll see him again on the other side...
taking as many stories of spending time with you as I can...
All right, Tsumugi?
Take your time growing up.

Y'know...
I make food with Daddy.
I can even make a feast.

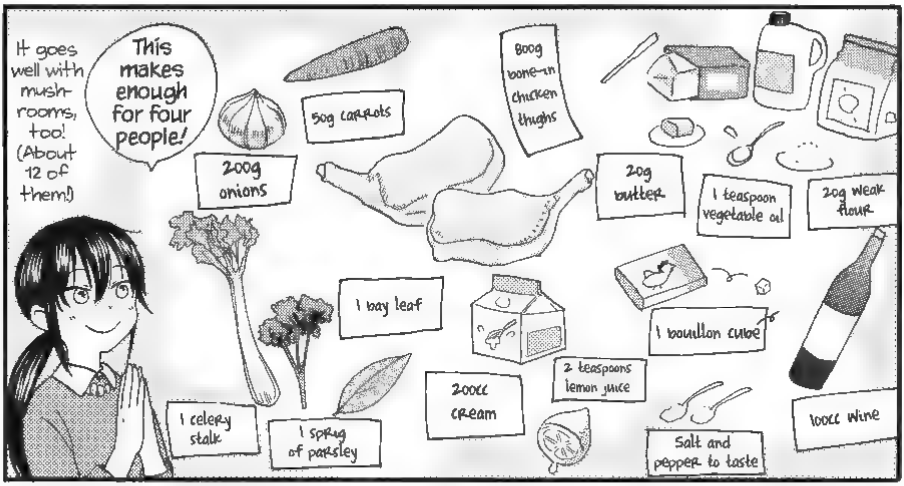
Thanks for taking care of me!
It's so hard seeing you go!
I wish you could stay longer!

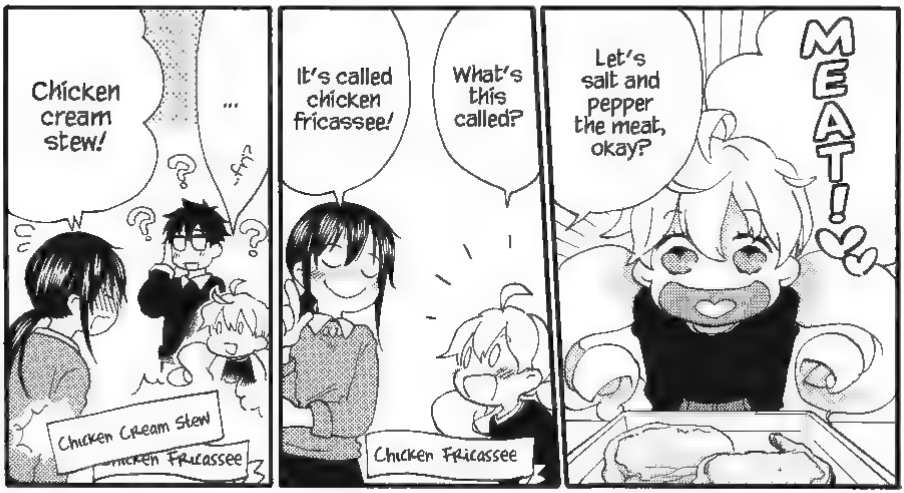
HUG
Come here.
Hey...
You said your goodbyes inside already.
You okay to be out here?
See you, Tsumugi.
RUB RUB
I'll come again soon, 'kay?
Bye! See ya!

Tsu-
mugi!
Hi...
Daaa...
...ddy!

Welcome back!
It's good to be home!
Oh! You were at your grandma's house, then?
Yup!
We caught bugs and went to pet the animals!
So what did you want to make today again?

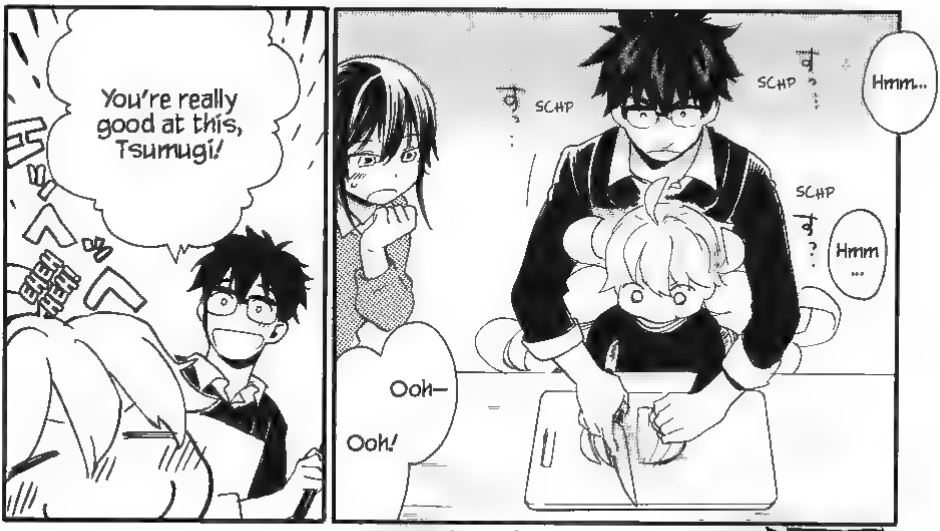
Um, I wanna make a feast!
Something yummy and amazing!
Gotcha!
We'll make something creamy and with a lot of meat!
...and it's like a dream...
...and it's creamy!
FLAP FLAP FLAP
It's got meat...
...and it's yummy...
BOW
That's what I want.
Let's do it.
!!


It goes well with mushrooms, too! (About 12 of them!)
This makes enough for four people!
800g bone-in chicken thighs
50g carrots
200g onions
20g butter
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
20g weak flour
1 bay leaf
1 bouillon cube
2 teaspoons lemon juice
200cc cream
100cc wine
1 celery stalk
1 sprig of parsley
Salt and pepper to taste


Chicken cream stew!
...
Chicken Cream Stew
Chicken Fricassee
It's called chicken fricassee!
What's this called?
Chicken Fricassee
Let's salt and pepper the meat, okay?
MEAT!

So maybe you can help me cut them in half first.
First, we need to thinly slice the onions and carrots.
Let's
Okay... see.
Ooh.
I'm gonna help too!

I think I'm good enough to slice things thinly now...
Hmm?
Er... Um...
Okay, let's try it then.
Oh!
But you'll do it with Daddy, okay?
Okay!


Hmm...
SCHP
SCHP
SCHP
Hmm...
Ooh—
Ooh!
You're really good at this, Tsumugi!
EHEN HEH!

Want to cook the chicken together, too?
Can I?!
Wow...
Amazing!
Of course... ....when we're using the stove...
Right!
I gotta do it with Daddy!

じゅうじゅう
SIZZLE
Wow...
じゅわ
SIZZLE
Saute the meat with the butter and vegetable oil.
Skin-side-down first!
SIZZLE

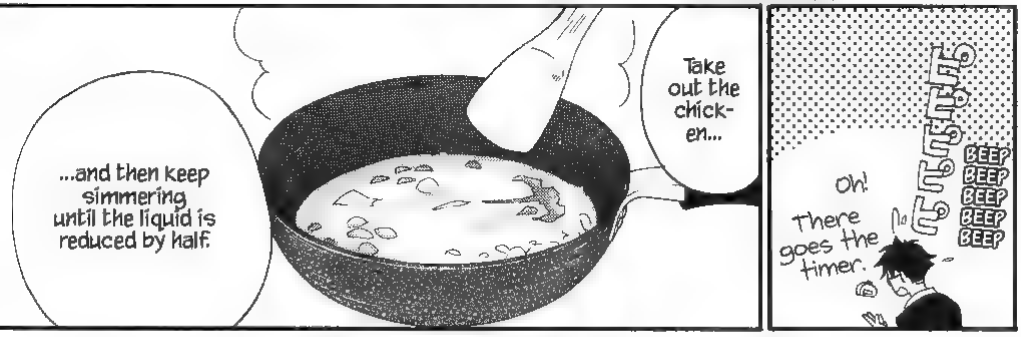
Once the flour has dissolved, add the white wine and stir.
Once the vegetables soften, add the flour and cook more.
Turn the heat to high to burn away the alcohol.

...and sauté the onions and carrots in the same frying pan.
Once it's just started to brown, move it over to a plate...

Once it comes to a boil, put a lid on and let it simmer for 15 minutes.
Got it!
Add the celery, parsley, and bay leaf.
Got it!
Add the broth...
...and put the meat back in.
Got it!
Got it!

TAKING A BREAK
Not yet. Still have to wait.
I'm sooooo hungry!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
Timer
...and said she wanted to make a feast, I was pretty surprised, but...
When Tsumugi got home...
UH HUH!
R-really?
Uh!
It feels like...
...it's been a while since we've done this. It's fun.
It's got me really pumped up.
I was just thinking...
...how much I wanted to do this again.

Um!
M-me, too!
I wanted to make food with everybody again!
Me, too!


Take out the chicken...
...and then keep simmering until the liquid is reduced by half.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
Oh! There goes the timer.

Then run the soup through a strainer!
OOH!!
Gotta get a video!
It's all soggy!
We don't need this anymore?
Tsumugi...

WOW...
はぐっ
Yummi-ness!

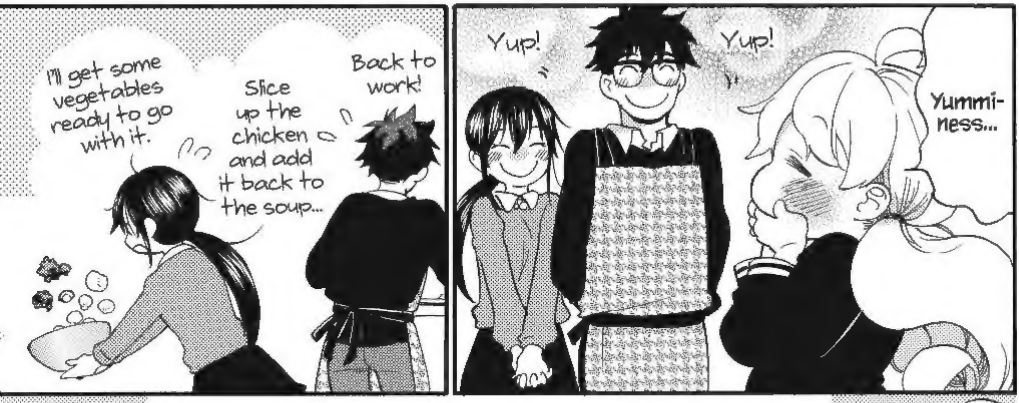
All the yumminess from the vegetables like the carrots and onions...
...is inside here now!

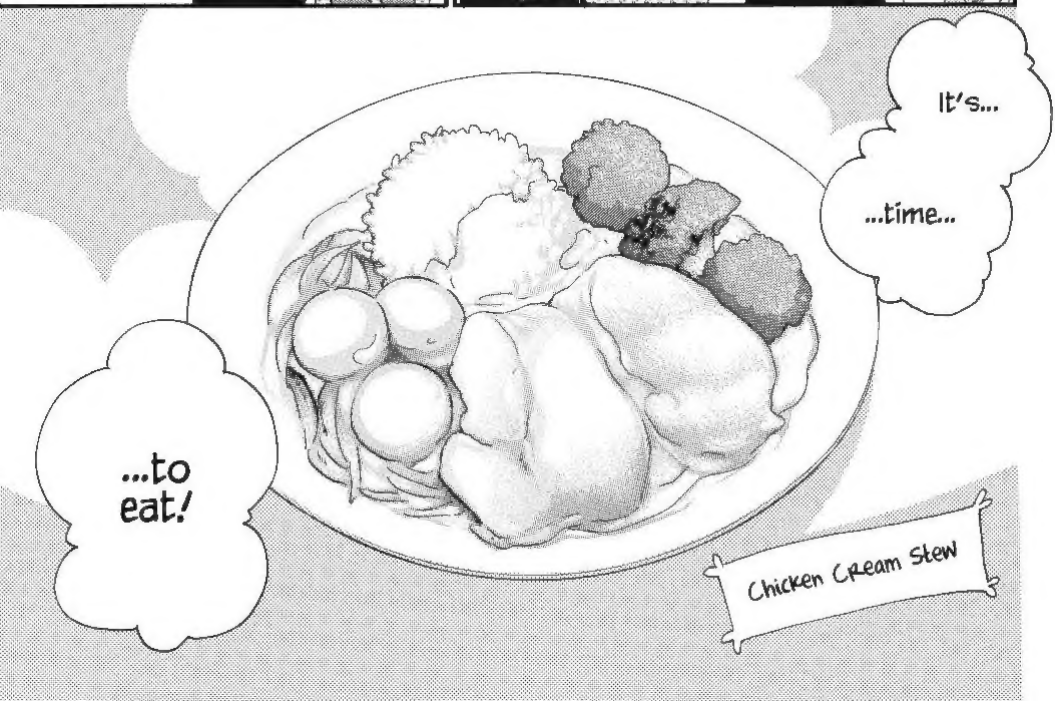
Add the cream and lemon juice to the soup...
...then salt and pepper to taste.

BA-DUM
She said "yummi-ness"!
Totally yummy!
BA-DUM
Right!
It's yummy, Tsumugi!
Yummy!
Yummy!

Time for a taste test.

That's right. Not much work...
And the flavor is so... complex, I guess?
Phew...
Awe-some...
It wasn't all that much work, was it?
Wow...
Hold on, hold on.
Wow! Wow! I wanna try it, too! I wanna try it, too!


I'll get some vegetables ready to go with it.
Slice up the chicken and add it back to the soup...
Back to work!
Yup!
Yup!
Yummi-ness...


It's...
...time...
...to eat!
Chicken Cream Stew

CHOMP CHOMP
CHEW CHEW
AAAAH!
Yummm...
It's yummy!

Right, Dad--
W-what?
O-Oh! Sorry. You just looked like you were enjoying it so much.

To be continued...